

Sunday 13th October 2024: Twenty eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Homelessness Sunday)
For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or some other suitable time.

Theme for today is “Letting go for God”

Our call to worship: We come to worship the Lord who surrounds us, does good to us, invites us to trust and reminds us to follow scripture to lead the life destined for us.

Hymn: StF 28 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Prayers of adoration and confession

Think of the past week and say both ‘thank you’ and ‘sorry’ to our loving God.

Hymn: StF 81 Now thank we all our God

Readings: Hebrews 4: 12-16 and Mark 10: 17-31

To think about

What stands in the way of us having a full and meaningful relationship with God?

What are the things you cling to that could get in the way?

Are you ready to give them up?

Message from a Circuit Friend

‘What must I do to receive eternal life?’

The question asked by the rich young man was asked nearly 2,000 years ago, before Jesus had died, risen and ascended, and before Christianity was invented!

It was asked when Jesus was first making waves in the religious community, when people were not always understanding what he was talking about, when religious leaders were trying his reasoning, and perhaps his patience, by asking questions to which the law had an answer, but Jesus’ teaching seemed to contradict.

Was this question a genuine request for information, or had the young man been primed to catch Jesus out? Whatever the answer to that question, Jesus answered, by acknowledging that the rich young man knew the answer that he wanted, which was to keep the laws of Moses, as taught by the Scribes and Pharisees. What he didn’t want to hear was that much of his life, with its privileges and achievements, was getting in the way of his quest for eternal life. He is told by Jesus that he needs to sell all that he has and give the money to the poor, and that made him sad because he was very rich. There is much in our lives that we wouldn’t want to give up for anything. We have precious, even if not valuable, possessions; we have homes and cars and all the gadgets that make our lives easier; we have family and friends, church and community. We have time for ourselves and for our interests. When these things stop us coming closer to God, maybe we have to give them up. Not always get rid of them but give them up to God so he can use them in some way, and in so doing can use us in his work. And sometimes, in order to have time for God, we have to give up the things we think we are doing for God.

But hear the promise – ‘and you will have riches in Heaven.’

Living the Christian life isn’t just about the promise of things to come, such as eternal life or riches in heaven. It comes with the challenge to leave our comfort zone and hear the call, ‘then come and follow me.’

Pippa Cook, one of our Local Preachers

Hymn: StF 322 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord’s Prayer...

Hymn: StF 566 Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee

Closing blessing - We say together the Grace.